

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT
ROLE THAT LOCAL BROADCASTERS
PLAY IN ALERTING
THE PUBLIC DURING WEATHER
EMERGENCIES

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, unpredictable and sometimes violent weather has struck our Nation. The months of May and June are the most likely times for tornadoes to strike the great Hoosier state. Getting to safety before a tornado strikes can be the difference between life and death. Success in that effort depends on access to timely information. For this reason, I want to thank local broadcasters in the 7th District of Indiana for providing critical information during weather emergencies.

Last year, a violent storm caused the sudden collapse of the concert stage at the Indiana State Fair. This tragic incident killed seven and severely injured dozens more. It could have been much worse. Timely alerts from local broadcasters enabled Fair officials to clear the Midway minutes before the storm struck, potentially saving the lives of hundreds.

Radio and television stations are our Nation's most reliable network for distributing emergency information. When electrical lines are knocked down and Internet and mobile networks become inoperable, broadcasters are the last line of defense—transmitting public safety information over the airwaves.

Local television and radio stations play a critical role in ensuring public safety. Now is the time to expand their ability to provide emergency notifications. Increasingly, the American people have access to mobile phones. By equipping these devices to receive FM radio signals, millions of Americans could depend on their mobile phones to provide critical information in advance of a weather emergency.

As a former official with the Department of Homeland Security, I know first-hand how cell phone networks can become overloaded and inoperable during an emergency. By adopting this technology, broadcasters can provide timely information to mobile phones—enabling the American people to take shelter in advance of a weather emergency. I call upon my colleagues in Congress, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission and the mobile phone industry to work together to expand the reach of local broadcasters in providing critical information during a weather emergency.

I want to once again thank local broadcasters in my district for their essential role in promoting public safety.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
OF PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Habitat for Humanity of Prince William County Volunteers.

Habitat for Humanity seeks to eliminate poverty housing and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people from all walks of life and faiths to work together in partnership to build and repair houses with families in need through our Neighborhood Revitalization Initiatives: New Construction, Home Rehabs, Home Repairs and the Habitat Restore. Home repairs consist of A Brush with Kindness, Weatherization, Critical Home Repairs and Critical Home Repairs for Veterans. None of their work is possible without the funding and time that their donors and volunteers give so generously. 490 volunteers donated more than 6,867 hours in 2011 and eleven of those volunteers individually donated more than 100 hours each.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers of Habitat for Humanity of Prince William County:

Susan Jacobs, Karen Wilkinson, Rob Major, Chris Daffan, Theresa Accoo, Christine Rowe, Kisha Sogunro-Wilson, Anita Duecater, Renee Wolfolk, John McBride, Brian Swanson, Marci Swanson, Dob McCubbin, Frank Jacquette, Sandi Stark, Mike Stark, George Braun, Matthew Watkins, Bob Gainer, Al Harris, Lynn Ashe, Razan Azzarkani, Betty Reichert, Lynn Eklund, Kristine Reyes, Justin Marohnic, Darren Fischer, Casey Brewster, Gary Wright, Elizabeth Hayde, Ashley Tyler, Cheryl Novogradac, Joseph Bolos, Scott DeGroat, Kim Morris, Teresa Blacksmith, Jennifer Miller, Rich Feickert, Chris Reilly, Timothy Grembowski, Andi Pollard, Kenneth Morilak, Jeffrey Beathard, Quinton Morris, Kudzaish Mlambo, Pam Hart, Barbara Atwell, David Wurst, Mayumi Ferrin, Matthew Whalen, Rita Ayanga, Michael Renfro, Nathanael White, Kurt Wall, Sheryl Madison, Rodney Owens, Richard Revaz, Denise A. Womack, Phyllis Hall, Polynice Paul, John Grennek, Carmen T. Courchene, Sharon Dangerfield, Isalee Jackson, Cortni Robinson, Lauren Hughes, Christina Frank, Marletha Dyer, Paul Whalen, Dara Dentham, Patrick Stolte, Maikao Yang, James Zhang, Ying Zhang, Connie Moser, Mark Luiggi, Jim Floyd, Al Ferguson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers of Habitat for Humanity of Prince William County for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

THE OCCASION OF PHILLIP
THOMPSON'S RETIREMENT AS
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF
SEIU LOCAL 517M

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Phil Thompson, the Executive Vice President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 517M on the occasion of his retirement. For over 30 years, Phil has been an important leader in the SEIU, working to ensure that the rights of workers are respected.

True to the form of a leader and advocate, Phil is passionate about fighting for the rights of those he represents, whether it was his constituents when he was Shiawassee County

Commissioner or the Michigan public employees he works for every day in his current role. It is no surprise, given his spirit for serving and protecting others, that prior to his time with Local 517M, Phil had been planning to go to law school. Instead, as often happens to those with the drive to serve, Phil fulfilled his passion as a voice protecting the rights of others. Having arrived at Local 517M in April 1981 as a staff representative, Phil quickly ascended to become the branch's Executive Director in 1986.

What was originally supposed to be only a part-time job quickly became Phil's central work. As a leader for the SEIU in Michigan, Phil took it upon himself to represent the members of Local 517M at every collective bargaining session since he became Director in 1986. Phil strongly believes that communication between the unions and their members and unions and their communities is essential to ensuring that all workers have their rights protected. Phil has strived to keep his members connected to their local through strengthening member services.

Like so many who are thrust into positions of leadership by their peers, Phil has never forgotten his brothers and sisters who put him there. He strongly believes that it has been an honor to work with so many talented and dedicated union and staff members.

In recognition of his exceptional leadership skills and his effectiveness, Phil's peers have consistently given him increased responsibilities that extend beyond Local 517M. He has been elected to SEIU's International Executive Board three times between 2000 and 2008, where he is finishing up his current term as Vice President. Between 2002 and 2010 he served as President of Michigan's SEIU State Council and currently serves as its Treasurer. Phil is constantly sought to be a voice for professionals in State government, by news agencies and was recently awarded the 2012 Michigan Labor Press Award for his contributions which have supported the growth of the labor movement.

Mr. Speaker, Phil has spent his life working to strengthen the labor movement, which in Michigan and around the world has secured and protected important rights for all workers. His dedication and passion have benefited so many and I know that his colleagues and fellow SEIU members will surely miss him, his insights and his experience. I know that as a voice for fairness, even in retirement, he will continue to fight for the rights of workers and I wish him many happy and productive years to come.

REPRESENTATIVE KIND FLOOR
AMENDMENT 78 (RULES AMENDMENT 145) TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
(H.R. 4310)

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment to waive the time limitation for awarding Lt. Alonzo Cushing the Medal of Honor.

A Wisconsin native, Lt. Cushing, on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, commanded